the death of the son of Koxinga (1682), was brought into the Empire.

Not only did K'ang Hsi succeed in confirming his family in their control of China: he extended his authority beyond his inherited frontiers. From time immemorial, as we have repeatedly seen, the fertile plains and valleys of North China had been subject to invasion from the less favored lands on the north, west, and northeast. Some of the rulers of China sought protection from the menace by constructing or maintaining thv Great Wall. However, the greatest monarchs of the Han and the Tang, it will be recalled, had not been content with remaining on the defensive, but had sought to dominate the regions from which the threats issued. It was this bold policy which K'ang Hsi adopted, and in it he was followed by his two immediate successors. As a consequence, by the end of the eighteenth century the territory controlled by the Ch'ing—as we have suggested—was more extensive than that which had acknowledged the suzerainty of any line which had reigned in China except that of Jenghiz Khan.

K'ang Hsi was led to embark upon a program of expansion by a threat to his frontiers. At the accession of the Ch'ing, the Mongols, as heretofore, were divided into many tribes. They were chiefly in two groups, the Eastern and the Western. The Eastern Mongols, in turn, were subdivided into the Northern, or Khalkhas, and the Southern, in what we now know as Inner Mongolia. We have seen that before the Manchu conquest of China proper many of the tribes of Inner Mongolia had submitted to the Ch'ing. One of the khans, or chiefs, of this region seized the opportunity given by the rebellion of Wu Sankuei to revolt.

K'ang Hsi subdued him and followed up the victory by claiming suzerainty over the entire Mongol confederation. This presaged the extension of the power of the Ch'ing over the Khalkhas.

K'ang HsFs authority over the Khalkhas did not become effective, however, until after a further development. The Western Mongols, or Kalmuks, had among them a tribe called the Eleuths (or Oelots). A leader of the Eleuths was then building one of those many more or less ephemeral states of Central Asia which have risen, flourished, and disappeared, usually all within a few decades. This chief not only became strong in the Gobi, but intervened in Tibet, posing as the protector of the Dalai Lama. His